

WILLIAM RANKEN, WHO SHOT HIS

HE CUTS HIS THROAT WITH A RAZOR AT HIS HOME IN HOBOKEN.

POLICE SAY THAT DRINK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACT, BUT HIS FRIENDS HAVE ANOTHER THEORY—THE HOUSE AN UNLUCKY ONE.

William Ranken, twenty-eight years old, a wealthy property-owner and one of the best-known citizens in Hoboken, was found about 8 o'clock yesterday morning lying on the floor of his room in his handsome home at Tenth-st. and Park-ave., bleeding profusely from an incision in the neck, which was made by a razor. He died last night at St. Mary's Hospital.

Dora Whitmore, the housekeeper, who discovered Ranken after he had cut his throat, said that on her entrance the young man, who was weak from loss of blood, managed to say: "It is done now, and it is too late to talk." Dr. Gilchrist was summoned, and, after sewing up the wound, he ordered the man's removal to St. Mary's Hospital, where he died last evening.

The police are of the opinion that the circumstances of the case indicated that the young man attempted to take his own life, a fact which Ranken's many friends could hardly believe when they heard the news. The police said that while he had been drinking heavily of late, while others assert that he has been grievously depressed over the death of his mother, which occurred four months ago. According to the housekeeper, he has been acting so unlike himself that she refused to give him his razor on Sunday morning, fearing that he would do himself harm, but the police say that he found it, nevertheless, and shaved himself before retiring.

The other members of the Ranken family are at Point Pleasant, and will be returning only one at a time. The family, of which the would-be suicide was at the head, is reported to be worth \$500,000, which is principally invested in real estate in the upper part of Hoboken.

The house in which they live seems to have been unfortunate to the occupants. All the members of a family named Senke, who once owned it, were lost in the foundering of a ship off the Cornwall coast twelve years ago, and since the Rankens have lived there the father and mother died, and the eldest son succumbed to consumption, after making a desperate effort to kill himself by jumping from a window.

THE NUTLEY DIAMOND ROBBERY.

POLICE BELIEVE THAT SOME ONE ACQUAINTED WITH THE HOUSE STOLE THE GEMS.

Nutley, July 12 (Special).—The mystery connected with the robbery of Edward Morgan's house, in Grant-ave., Nutley, on Sunday afternoon, is not yet solved. Several persons are suspected of complicity, and are now under surveillance, and an arrest is likely to occur at any moment. The village has been overrun with detectives and reporters, and all sorts of vague theories are advanced, but the police are confident that the case will be cleared up by the end of the week. Captain Daly and Detective Carroll, of Newark, is thought to be correct. That is, that some one familiar with the premises committed the theft.

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There is considerable anxiety to see what James J. Bergen, who is now on his way home from Chicago, may have to say. A newspaper disgusted with the result of the New-Jersey bolters and left Chicago before the nomination for Vice-President was made. There are evidences here now of a general revolt among the Democrats. Most of them are now having a third ticket.

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HIS HOUSE BURNED BY ENEMIES.

A BUILDER AND HIS FAMILY HAVE NARROW ESCAPES FROM DEATH IN FLAMES.

Passaic, July 13 (Special).—Fire was discovered in the house occupied by George S. Grosbeck this morning at 4 o'clock. The discovery was made by Miss Cosgrove, of Wallington, who was seeing a friend off on the first train from Prospect-st. Officer Coon was in the neighborhood and turned in a general alarm. The department answered promptly, but not until the flames had gained considerable headway. Mr. Grosbeck was awakened by the stifling smoke in his room. He did not have time to dress, but rushed half-clad to awaken his mother-in-law and three small children. The fire had by this time reached the staircase, and made escape that way impossible. The family was taken out on the balcony and rescued by the firemen. A number of minor mishaps befell the firemen. A. E. Mallifort, of Passaic Bridge, was overcome by the smoke and was almost miraculously rescued. The household furniture, only slightly injured, was completely destroyed.

The fire started to have been of incendiary origin. Mr. Grosbeck is a well-to-do builder, but he has many enemies. About six months ago the house was on fire, and after an investigation by the Fire Committee it was decided that the fire was of incendiary origin. Grosbeck was assaulted on Saturday night by two men on the street. He gave both a sound thrashing. One of them, it is said, threatened to "fix" him. An investigation will be made.

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EXPLOSION ON AN OIL BOAT.

MATE DROWNED AND THE CAPTAIN BADLY BURNED.

A TANK BEING FILLED CATCHES FIRE—A SECOND TANK ALSO EXPLODES IN MIDSTREAM AFTER A VAIN EFFORT TO SAVE IT.

A fatal explosion occurred yesterday on the Standard Oil Company's lighter No. 16, off the company's plant at Cavan Point, Jersey City. One man was thrown overboard and drowned, another was burned and bruised, and the vessel was totally destroyed.

The lighter was taking on a cargo of astral oil, which was to have been delivered at Hunter's Point. She had two tanks, each with a capacity of 200 barrels, and the tanks were almost charged when the accident occurred. The cause is a mystery. The theory is that the pipes became overheated and ignited the oil.

The fire started to have been of incendiary origin. Mr. Grosbeck is a well-to-do builder, but he has many enemies. About six months ago the house was on fire, and after an investigation by the Fire Committee it was decided that the fire was of incendiary origin. Grosbeck was assaulted on Saturday night by two men on the street. He gave both a sound thrashing. One of them, it is said, threatened to "fix" him. An investigation will be made.

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